



Surface Deployment and Distribution Command

598th U.S. Army

Transportation Terminal Group

H i s t o r y S h e e t

The Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) 598th Transportation Terminal Group (or 598th Trans Gp) has been operational under that name since 1 October 1997, tracing its history to the early days of post World War II.

The Command was established in Bremerhaven, Germany, under the 17th Major Port on 7 June 1945. It was subsequently named **Bremerhaven Port of Embarkation** on 14 March 1947.

On 16 August 1955, the **Bremerhaven Port of Embarkation** assumed control of all U.S. Army ports in the United Kingdom.

Subports at Mannheim, Germany, and Rotterdam, The Netherlands, were activated in 1957. They were added to the Bremerhaven Port of Embarkation to support U.S. Forces in the Central European Theater of Operations.

On 31 December 1961, the **United Kingdom Terminal** was established as a special activity of the Chief of Transportation.

The Bremerhaven Port of Embarkation was redesigned as the **U.S. Army Terminal Command** on 1 May 1964.

The jurisdiction of the newly established command was extended to the Port of **Saint Nazaire**, France, on July 1964.

Three years later, in March 1967, the **Saint Nazaire** facility was deactivated due to the withdrawal of U.S. Forces from France.

In April 1968, the **United Kingdom Terminal** was assigned to the **United States Transportation Command, Europe**.

At the same time the **Lisbon Terminal** was activated and joined the Command in support of DOD activities in Portugal.

The expanding European-wide Transportation Terminal

Command was again renamed in July 1969, this time as the **U.S. Army Transportation Terminal Group, Europe (USATTGE)**. It was organized as a subordinate unit of the United States Army Transportation Command, Europe and assumed control of all Department of Defense terminal activities in Northern Europe, the United Kingdom and Portugal.

In 1970, The Headquarters moved from **Bremerhaven** to **Rotterdam**, The Netherlands.

On 1 July 1976, the command was transferred from the 4th Transportation Brigade, (TRANSCOM) U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) to the **Military Traffic Management Command, Eastern Area**.

The new name of the command became **Military Traffic Management Command Transportation Terminal Group, Europe (MTMC TTGE)**.

In January 1977, **MTMC TTGE** became a major subordinate command of HQ MTMC, which was located in Washington, D.C. Terminal units in the **Azores, Italy, Greece, Spain and Turkey** were added to MTMC TTGE.

In January 1980, **Transportation Terminal Unit (TTU) Azores** was transferred to MTMC Eastern Area (MTMCEA). MTMC TTGE provided vital service and important wartime mission for projection of U.S. power into Europe. Therefore, the MTMC Transportation Terminal Group, Europe was redesigned in January 1981 as the **MTMC Transportation Terminal Command, Europe (MTMC TTCE)**.

Export cargo booking and contract administration functions performed by the Military Sealift Command were transferred to MTMC in October 1981. This resulted in the formulation of the **Military Export Cargo**

Offering and Booking Office (MECOBO) was subsequently renamed **Ocean Cargo Clearance Activity (OCCA)** in Bremerhaven, Naples, Italy and Felixstowe, United Kingdom.

In June 1982, Detachment 33-1, **TTU Istanbul** became an outpost under Detachment 33-2, **TTU Izmir**,

Turkey. On 14 July 1983, **TTU Iskenderun** was also added.

Since 21 July 1983, Headquarters MTMC TTCE has been located in **Capelle aan den IJssel**, adjacent to the city of Rotterdam in The Netherlands.

MTMC's Transportation Terminal Command Europe or **MTMC TTCE**, officially changed its name to **MTMC Europe (MTMC-EUR)** on 1 January 1989

In June 1989, **OCCA (-North)** was relocated to 598th Trans Gp in Capelle aan den IJssel, NL with offices in Naples, Italy, and London, United Kingdom.

On October 1, 1991, the **MTMC outport at the Port of Istanbul**, Turkey was closed.

On October 1, 1991, the **TTU Azores** was transferred to MTMC Europe.

On December 2, 1991, a **temporary MTMC Terminal in Saudi Arabia**, located in Ad Dammam, Saudi Arabia, took on the difficult mission of returning unit equipment and containers. This happened under strict time constraints and minimum staffing under MTMC Europe. On 25 June 1992, MTMC Terminal Saudi Arabia was deactivated.

MTMC Europe was a subordinate of Headquarters MTMC until 1992. On 10 July 1992, MTMC Europe was realigned under **MTMC Eastern Area**, Bayonne, New Jersey.

MTMC Europe's **Outport Barcelona** was officially closed on 30 September 1992. As part of MTMC TTU Spain, Barcelona was added to MTMC Europe in January 1977. Outport Barcelona's closure was due to the reduction of U.S. Air Force presence in Spain. On 1 October 1992, the overall responsibility of the U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) organization Joint Traffic Management Agency (**JTMA**) at Oberursel, Germany, was transferred to MTMC Europe. Within the MTMC organization the control of JTMA was delegated to the **Directorate of Inland Theater Transportation (ITTD)**, former Personal Property Directorate (PPD).

On April 2, 1993, MTMC PPD was renamed as **Inland Theater Transportation Directorate (ITTD)**. JTMA's name has changed into Intratheater Commercial Transportation Division (ICTD). ITTD consolidated all commercial transportation services under one roof.

As of 1 January 1993, MTMC units have **numbered designations**. Here are the old and new identifications:

HQ MTMC Europe - HQ MTMC Europe
MTMC Tml Bremerhaven -

1305th Major Port Command

MTMC Transportation Terminal Unit, Spain -

1311th Medium Port Command

MTMC Terminal Benelux -

1318th Medium Port Command

MTMC Transportation Terminal Unit, Greece -

1319th Medium Port Command

MTMC Terminal United Kingdom -

1320th Medium Port Command

MTMC Terminal Italy -

1321st Medium Port Command

MTMC Transportation Terminal Unit, Turkey -

1323rd Medium Port Command

MTMC Transportation Terminal Unit, Azores -

1324th Medium Port Command

In June 1993 the 1305th Major Port Command at Bremerhaven, Germany, was redesignated as **MTMC Terminal Bremerhaven -**

1325th Medium Port Command.

On September 30, 1994, **MTMC 1311th Medium Port Command (MTMC Terminal Spain)**, located at Rota, Spain, was deactivated due to the drawdown of the U.S. Air Force presence in Spain.

In April 1996, MTMC Europe's Terminal Southwest Asia in Bahrain, has been officially activated as **MTMC's 1311th Medium Port Command**. The terminal has three detachments in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar.

On 1 October 1996, **MTMC Europe** became a subordinate area command of Headquarters, MTMC in Falls Church, Virginia.

On 1 October 1997, headquarters MTMC Europe and its units were redesignated. MTMC Europe was renamed as the **MTMC 598th Transportation Terminal Group**. The Group's units were redesignated as follows:

831st U.S. Army Transportation Battalion, Manama, Bahrain

- Kuwait Detachment, Kuwait City
- Qatar Detachment, Doha
- Saudi Arabia Detachment, Dharan.

838th U.S. Army Transportation Battalion, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

- 950th U.S. Army Transportation Company, Bremerhaven, Germany

- 951st U.S. Army Transportation Company, Ipswich, United Kingdom
- Rhine River Detachment, Mannheim, Germany.

839th U.S. Army Transportation Battalion, Livorno, Italy

- 952nd U.S. Army Transportation Company Azores, Praia da Vitoria, Azores, Portugal
- 953rd U.S. Army Transportation Company, Piraeus, Greece

840th U.S. Army Transportation Battalion, Izmir, Turkey

On 1 October 1997, the **Intratheater Commercial Transportation Division (ICTD)** in Stuttgart, Germany, was transferred to the U.S. European Command in Stuttgart.

It's **Personal Property Directorate** stayed with MTMC 598th Trans Gp and provided guidance and assistance to component and subordinate commands as well as personal property shipping offices throughout the European theater and Southwest Asia.

On 28 February 1998, **MTMC's Lisbon Detachment** was closed. The detachment's vastly reduced workload could not longer justify the cost of providing permanent MTMC presence in Lisbon, Portugal.

August 1998 the responsibilities of the **OCCA-UK** office in the United Kingdom moved to 598th Trans Gp in Capelle aan den IJssel, The Netherlands.

On 18 November 1998 the **Iskenderun Detachment** of the 840th U.S. Army Transportation Battalion in Izmir, Turkey was officially relocated to the Incirlik Air Base and renamed as **Incirlik Detachment**.

The ability to deactivate **Incirlik Detachment** came with the full implementation of the Global Privately Owned Vehicle Contract (GPC). On 31 May 2000, the Incirlik Detachment was inactivated.

On 8 June 2000, the **952nd Transportation Company** located on the Azores, Portugal, was deactivated and established as the **MTMC Azores Detachment**. The continued efficiencies in operations provided the opportunity to divert assigned military personnel to other MTMC missions and restructure operations. The mission will not change however; MTMC will continue to operate the Military Port of Praia and execute all of the associated responsibilities with a smaller crew.

On 1 December 2000 the **Personal Property Directorate** in Stuttgart, Germany was realigned under HQ MTMC in Alexandria, VA.

On 30 September, 2001, the **Payment Certification and Billing Division** in London, United Kingdom, was realigned under MTMC's Deployment Support Command at Ft. Eustis, VA. This office which was responsible for the certification of payment of the over ocean carrier invoices. Since 1 October, 1998, just after Military Sealift Command Europe moved it's headquarters from London to Naples, Italy, this office received command and control from the MTMC 598th Trans Gp in Rotterdam.

On 31 May 2002, the Ocean Cargo Clearance Authority (**OCCA**)-**South** in Naples, Italy was officially closed. This completed the consolidation of all MTMC cargo booking and quality assistance activities in Europe, the Middle East and Africa's to 598th Trans Gp in Capelle aan den IJssel, The Netherlands

On 1 May 2003, the **953rd U.S. Army Transportation Company** in Piraeus, Greece, was deactivated and established as **MTMC Detachment Greece**.

In September 2003, the **Saudi Arabia Detachment** of the 831st U.S. Army Transportation Battalion ceased operations and moved from Dharan to Kuwait.

On 1 January 2004 the Military Traffic Management Command changed its name to Military **Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC)**.

On 25 January 2004, the **OCCA SWA** Booking Office began operations in Manama, Bahrain, booking cargo for the Defense Distribution Center (DDZZ).

In February 2004, the 831st Transportation Battalion's **Saudi Arabia Detachment** left Kuwait to establish SDDC operations at the Port of Umm Qasr, Iraq.

The 598th Trans Gp split up responsibilities with the newly formed 595th Trans Gp on 1 Oct 2004.

The 831st Trans Battalion and the 840th Trans Battalion together form the **595th Transportation Terminal Group, Camp Spearhead, Kuwait**. The situation in the Southwest Asia region forced SDDC to better serve CENTCOM. With a Transportation Group in the area SDDC is better equipped to support the combatant commanders.

On 1 October 2004 the 838th Transportation Battalion took over the responsibilities for the **Azores Detachment** from the 839th Transportation Battalion.

The 840th Transportation Battalion was redesignated on 1 January 2005 to the **Turkey Detachment**. while the

839th Transportation Battalion took over responsibilities for the Turkey Detachment

On 1 January 2005 the **SDDC 598th Transportation Terminal Group's** units were as follows:

838th U.S. Army Transportation Battalion, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

- 950th U.S. Army Transportation Company, Bremerhaven, Germany
- 951st U.S. Army Transportation Company, Ipswich, United Kingdom
- Rhine River Detachment, Mannheim, Germany.
- SDDC Azores Detachment, Praia da Vitoria, Azores, Portugal

839th U.S. Army Transportation Battalion, Livorno, Italy

- SDDC Greece Detachment, Piraeus, Greece
- SDDC Turkey Detachment, Izmir, Turkey

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